

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Halloween Safety Tips

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Charleston, SC (October 30, 2013): With Halloween approaching this Thursday, October 31st, the Charleston Fire Department would like remind everyone of safety tips for an enjoyable Halloween experience. According to Safe Kids Trident Area Trauma/Injury Prevention Coordinator Jennifer Winkelmann, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween as any other day of the year. "I recommend giving your child a flashlight or glow sticks to carry to make them more visible to motorists. Reflective gear and reflective tape are also recommended and can be purchased at sporting goods stores."

Remember these tips while Trick-or-Treating as well:

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look both ways several times when crossing, keep looking as you cross.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Drivers, anticipate heavier pedestrian traffic than normal and take extra time to look for people at intersections and medians.

According to the NFPA, decorations are the first thing to ignite in 1,000 reported home fires each year. It is safest to use a battery operated candle in pumpkins and jack o lanterns. If you use a candle use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times candles are lit. Also:

- Cornstalks, dried flowers, and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these decorations away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.

Halloween costumes can be creative and fun, please keep these tips in mind as you construct or buy your Halloween costume:

- Some costumes can be highly flammable. Keep children away from open flames. Review with them how to stop, drop, and roll if their clothes catch on fire.
- Choose face paint and makeup over masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Make sure the costume fits properly to prevent trips and falls.
- Try to incorporate reflective gear, tape, glow sticks, and flashlights into the costume for higher visibility.

We hope everyone has a safe and fun Halloween. Remember, in the event of an emergency; please call 9-1-1.

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